(d) if so, the response received from them; and

(e) the action proposed/to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Audit of companies under the Companies Act, 1956 can be carried out only by members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Any audit which is not in consonance with provisions of law is punishable.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The ICAI can initiate action against such of their members who do not comply with the provisions of law. If any such case of audit being done illegally is brought to the notice of the Government, appropriate legal action will be taken.

Failure of Banks to Meet Agricultural Loan Target

911. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have pulled up some banks for not meeting agricultural loan targets despite strick instructions to help farm sector on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details of public sector banks which have not achieved the target;

(c) whether the target fixed for issuing of kisan credit cards has also not been achieved; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to meet the target in regard to issuing of kisan credit cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 23 public sector banks have not achieved the target of 18% of Net Bank Credit for lending to the agricultural sector

during the year 2002-2003. The credit to agriculture by public sector banks has, however, increased from Rs. 63530 crores in March 2002 to Rs. 74250 crores in March 2003 showing a growth of 16.87% and formed 15.54% of Net Bank Credit as at end of March 2003. One of the reasons for these banks not being able to reach the target while showing improvement in absolute terms was that bank credit to other sectors was growing at a faster rate. Some of the banks have also pointed out that drought situation in many States and crash in prices of various agricultural commodities such as coffee, rubber, etc. has adversely affected credit off-take in agriculture during the current year.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that public sector banks have isued 26.81 lakh kisan credit card against the target of 25.81 lakh cards (103.87%) during the year 2002-2003. RBI has advised the banks to accelerate the programme for issue of Kisan Credit Cards and cover all eligible agricultural farmers under the KCC Scheme, by March 2004.

Clearance of Welfare Schemes

912. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. A.R. KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared a number of welfare schemes worth thousands of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the main schemes that were announced by the Prime Minister on the Independence Day announcement but have not been implemented or considered so far;

(c) whether providing drinking water in rural areas, promoting industry and tourism in North Eastern States and clearing Rs. 175 crore to Indian Airlines' subsidiary, Alliance Air during 2002-07 for running additional flights have been approved; and

(d) if so, to what extent they will be implemented during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) clearance of welfare schemes by the Government is a continuous process.